

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A method of managing the loading of patrons to an attraction having a predetermined attraction capacity in an entertainment environment wherein patrons are permitted access to the attraction on at least two bases, the first being a first-in first-out basis, and the second being a priority basis established by a prior allocation of a return time, comprising:

receiving from a patron a priority request for an allocation of a return time, the priority request being entered on a television unit located at a resort facility, the priority request being received at a central computer that regulates the number of patrons allowed to enter the attraction, wherein the resort facility is related to the entertainment environment and is located remotely from the entertainment environment;

transmitting to the patron an allocated return time via the television unit; and

filling the attraction to its predetermined attraction capacity with patrons on a first-in first-out basis, without reserving space for a patron having the allocated return time who is not present at the attraction during the allocated return time, and if with patrons not having the allocated return time on a first-in first-out basis unless a patron having the allocated return time is present at the attraction during the allocated return time then and preferentially loaded loading the during the return time and without reserving space for a patron having the allocated return time who is not present during the allocated return time.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, further comprising receiving multiple priority requests from the patron, the multiple requests being for different attractions in the environment.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein a first selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests, the multiple priority requests being for patrons from a second selection of patrons.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein the television unit is located in a room of the patron, the room of the patron being associated with the entertainment environment.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, further comprising receiving multiple priority requests from the patron, the multiple requests being for different attractions in the environment.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein a first selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests, the multiple priority requests being for patrons from a second selection of patrons.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein the television unit is located at a common area of a resort facility.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 25, further comprising receiving multiple priority requests from the patron, the multiple requests being for different attractions in the environment.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 25, wherein a first selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests, the multiple priority requests being for patrons from a second selection of patrons.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein a hierarchy of patrons is generated based on patrons remotely located from the environment when making a priority request, and patrons located at the entertainment environment when making the priority request.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein a hierarchy of patrons is generated based on patrons remotely located from the environment when making a priority request, patrons residing in a facility associated with the entertainment environment, and patron located at the entertainment environment when making the priority request.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein the return time is redeemed through an automatic procedure, wherein the automatic procedure includes any one of a reading of a radio frequency identification allocated to the patron, a reading of a magnetic code allocated to the patron, or a reading of a barcode allocated to the patron.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein the return time is redeemed at a time of entry into the entertainment environment or at the time of entry into the attraction in the entertainment environment.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein said allocated return time may or may not be redeemed by said patron, and further comprising the steps of determining the number of unredeemed return times to the number of allocated times, and feeding back redemptions of return times such that near real time updates of return time availability may be computed.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of permitting at least one exchange or return of the return time to the patron having the return time, and updating the computation of the number of patrons allowed to enter the attraction based on the at least one exchange or return of the return time.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of factoring unredeemed return times into a computation of the number of patrons allowed to enter the attraction.

Claims 35 - 52 (canceled)

Claim 53 (New) A method of managing the loading of patrons to an attraction wherein patrons are permitted access to the attraction on at least two bases, the first being a first-in first-out basis, and the second being a priority basis established by a prior allocation of a return time, comprising:

receiving from a patron a priority request for an allocation of a return time, the priority request being entered on a television unit, the priority request being received at a central computer that regulates the number of patrons allowed to enter the attraction;

transmitting to the patron an allocated return time via the television unit; and

filling the attraction to its predetermined attraction capacity with patrons on a first-in first-out basis, without reserving space for a patron having the allocated return time who is not present at the attraction during the allocated return time, and when a patron having the allocated return time is present at the attraction during the allocated return time then preferentially loading the patron having the allocated return time.

Claim 54 (New): The method of claim 53, further comprising receiving multiple priority requests from the patron, the multiple requests being for different attractions in the environment.

Claim 55 (New): The method of claim 53, wherein a first selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests, the multiple priority requests being for patrons from a second selection of patrons.

Claim 56 (New): The method of claim 53, wherein the television unit is located in a room of the patron, the room of the patron being associated with the entertainment environment.

Claim 57 (New): The method of claim 56, further comprising receiving multiple priority requests from the patron, the multiple requests being for different attractions in the environment.

Claim 58 (New): The method of claim 56, wherein a first selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests, the multiple priority requests being for patrons from a second selection of patrons.

Claim 59 (New): The method of claim 53, wherein the television unit is located at a common area of a resort facility.

Claim 60 (New): The method of claim 59, further comprising receiving multiple priority requests from the patron, the multiple requests being for different attractions in the environment.

Claim 61 (New): The method of claim 59, wherein a first selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests, the multiple priority requests being for patrons from a second selection of patrons.

Claim 62 (New): The method of claim 53, wherein a hierarchy of patrons is generated based on patrons remotely located from the environment when making a priority request, and patrons located at the entertainment environment when making the priority request.

Claim 63 (New): The method of claim 53, wherein a hierarchy of patrons is generated based on patrons remotely located from the environment when making a priority request, patrons residing in a facility associated with the entertainment environment, and patron located at the entertainment environment when making the priority request.

Claim 64 (New): The method of claim 53, wherein the allocated return time is redeemed through an automatic procedure, wherein the automatic procedure includes any one of a reading of a radio frequency identification allocated to the patron, a reading of a magnetic code allocated to the patron, or a reading of a barcode allocated to the patron.

Claim 65 (New): The method of claim 53, wherein the allocated return time is redeemed at a time of entry into the entertainment environment or at the time of entry into the attraction in the entertainment environment.

Claim 66 (New): The method of claim 53, wherein said allocated return time may or may not be redeemed by said patron, and further comprising the steps of determining the number of unredeemed return times to the number of allocated times, and feeding back redemptions of return times such that near real time updates of return time availability may be computed.

Claim 67 (New): The method of claim 53, further comprising the steps of permitting at least one exchange or return of the return time to the patron having the return time, and updating the computation of the number of patrons allowed to enter the attraction based on the at least one exchange or return of the return time.

Claim 68 (New): The method of claim 53, further comprising the steps of factoring unredeemed return times into a computation of the number of patrons allowed to enter the attraction.